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A STIFF competition

Condom design contest wrapping up
metroNEWS

Phoenix fiasco won't mean tax trouble

PAYROLL PROBLEMS

Feds reassuring public servants after glitch

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

The federal government is assuring public servants they won't have tax trouble because of the Phoenix pay system, despite thousands of overpayments and other delays.

Deputy Minister Marie LeMay gave another update Wednesday on the troubled pay system, reporting that there are still 10,000 cases in the backlog the government first identified in July.

Another 200,000-230,000 cases are outside of the government's standards for processing but have come in since July.

LeMay said the government was addressing the problem and was seeing steady and continued improvement.

"Our processing capacity will further increase once we have cleared the backlog," she said.

She said she was confident that overpayments would not show up on T4 tax statements.

"Overpayments that are recorded in Phoenix are not reflected on employee's yearly earning regardless of whether or not the overpayment has been repaid," she said.

She said people who feel they have Phoenix-related tax problems can access accounts and claim it through the government's process for costs associated with Phoenix.

"If people felt they really needed that they could use it and submit it to the claims unit," she said.

Randy Hewitt with the Canadian Revenue Agency said they were prepared for Phoenix-related problems and overpayments is something they know how to deal with.

"In most cases, overpayments that have been made in error can be corrected."

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Canadian beauty queen Anastasia Lin reportedly can't speak her mind at Miss World pageant. **World**

Canada 2020 rented to Liberals

ELECTIONS

2015 campaign volunteers set up in office downtown

The Liberal Party of Canada temporarily expanded its campaign headquarters during the federal election last year by renting office space from Canada 2020, a not-for-profit organization founded by long-time partisans with close personal ties to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

According to documents filed with Elections Canada, the Liberals subleased office space from Canada 2020 at 35 O'Connor St., in downtown Ottawa — now occupied by the think-tank — from Aug. 13 to Oct. 19, 2015, so that the party could set up a "volunteer hub" that was up and running 12 hours a day.

The documents show the Liberals paid a total of $13,833 to Canada 2020 over that period.

There is nothing in the rules that would prohibit the arrangement, as both the Liberal party and Canada 2020 say the agreement involved paying full market rent.

But it is another example of the close connections between the Liberals and Canada 2020, an organization that styles itself as an independent source of progressive ideas and policies, but whose people are also intertwined with the governing party and the prime minister.

"The relationships are very, very close, they're very, very convenient and they do raise a lot of eyebrows," Conservative MP Blaine Calkins, who has repeatedly asked questions about Canada 2020 in the House of Commons, said Wednesday morning.

NDP ethics critic Alexandre Boulerice asks a question during question period in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa in September 2012. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Democrat MP Alexandre Boulerice said the rental agreement is another piece of the puzzle.

"It's the latest piece of evidence that this organization is really an extension of the Liberal party," Boulerice, the NDP ethics critic, said Tuesday.

The think tank is not unaware of these problems with perception.

Canada 2020 has recently been trying to insulate itself from the cash-for-access fundraising stories that have been dogging the federal government this fall by bringing in new policies related to lobbying.

The close relationship also came up during the U.S. presidential election campaign, when Wikileaks published purportedly hacked emails that suggested Hillary Clinton's entourage was annoyed the Liberal Party of Canada had used a Canada 2020 event she appeared at in 2014 as a fundraising opportunity.

> **It's the latest piece of evidence that this organization is really an extension of the Liberal party.**
> Alexandre Boulerice

The costs associated with the work the volunteer hub did for local campaigns across the country — including rent, meals, telephones, computers and telecommunications services — were listed as part of the "Liberal Party Riding Services Package" the central campaign sells to the local campaigns for individual candidates nationwide.

Twenty-five per cent of the total amount spent on rent, or $3,458, was billed to the local campaigns, because the volunteers were making calls for local candidates from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. every day.

Braeden Caley, a party spokesman, wrote in an email Tuesday that the Liberal Party of Canada chose 35 O'Connor St. because of its "central location and close proximity" to its own national office at 350 Albert St., also in downtown Ottawa, which he said was not big enough to accommodate the "strong volunteer response" from the area.

"The Liberal campaign was the sole occupant of the space," Caley wrote.

He said the volunteer hub moved back into the Liberal party national headquarters after the campaign was over.

Alex Paterson, a spokesman for Canada 2020, wrote in an email Tuesday that the organization rented the space to the Liberal party because "the space was available to rent."

He said Canada 2020 did not begin using the space until earlier this year, when it relocated from its previous location on Dalhousie Street, in the Lowertown neighbourhood just east of downtown, and that no one associated with the organization was based at the Liberal volunteer hub.

Tom Pitfield, who is president of Canada 2020, was the chief digital strategist for the 2015 Liberal election campaign.

He is also a childhood friend of Trudeau's and is married to Anna Gainey, the Liberal Party of Canada president.

Canada 2020 was founded 10 years ago, when the Conservatives were in power, by Pitfield and three other longtime Liberals: Tim Barber, Susan Smith and Eugene Lang.

Smith, a registered lobbyist, recently left the board of directors at Canada 2020 in accordance with the new policy.

Barber remains on the board, but Lang has not been involved since 2013. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Panel eyes pot sales in stores

LEGISLATION

Councillor wants end to grey area on marijuana

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

City Coun. Mathieu Fleury said a new federal report on marijuana legislation doesn't clear the way for the dispensaries now operating in Ottawa, and he believes a more regulated system will happen in Ontario.

A panel tasked with looking at issues around marijuana legislation released its recommendations Tuesday, including a call for recreational marijuana to be sold in standalone stores and not with alcohol.

Fleury has previously raised concerns about the medical dispensaries currently operating in Ottawa. He said he believes the province will ultimately have the say and regulate the sale of marijuana the same way it does for alcohol.

A task force on legalized recreational marijuana is recommending storefront and mail-order sales to Canadians 18 years and older, with personal growing limits of four plants. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"If we recognize that the LCBO works, than let's do a MCBO," he said.

Other cities have considered looking at ways to regulate marijuana dispensaries through bylaws and zoning regulations, but Fleury said there is no point in pursuing that now.

"We will not proceed with any review until the feds have landed and the province gives us an indication on their approach," he said.

He said he would like greater clarity on the medical dispensaries and legalization sooner than next year, because the grey area is causing problems.

"It's resource intensive for Ottawa police and it creates that confusion."

> **If we recognize that the LCBO works, than let's do a MCBO.**
> Coun. Mathieu Fleury

The panel recommended that marijuana remain prohibited from sale to anyone under the age of 18.

Kristina Simpson, manager at Weeds Glass and Gifts, a medical dispensary on Bank Street, said she believes that may be too young.

"I would even like to see it at 19 to 21 even," she said. "At that age you're already so bombarded with the party culture I don't think you need another substance."

She said she expects her store would move into recreational marijuana when that becomes legal, but also hopes people still realize the medicinal benefits. "I think there are more recreational users that are gaining a ton of medicinal benefits without realizing it."

HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

Charities voice concerns

Two Ottawa charities are hoping federal public servants will open their wallets a little more this season.

Family Services of Ottawa and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ottawa published an open letter, which was sent to civil servants, asking them to give a little more.

Kathryn Hill, executive director of Family Services of Ottawa, said they're concerned the United Way campaign, which helps fund them and other agencies, may be running short.

She said public servants are regularly great and they just don't want to fall short this time. The campaign has raised $14.6 million out of a $19-million target.

At an update on the Phoenix pay system issue Wednesday, deputy minster Marie LeMay said seven out of 10 public servants were giving through automatic deductions this year, down from eight out of 10.

She said they don't believe Phoenix is a major factor.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO OTTAWA

Watson still considering another run for mayor in 2018

One on one with **Jim Watson**

Mayor Jim Watson said whether he seeks another term is still up in the air, but he hopes to make a decision soon.

Watson, who is past the halfway point of his term, said he plans to decide soon if he will run again in 2018 — adding he's enjoying the job now. "I'll make a decision sometime in the next few months. I am enjoying what I am doing, I am getting good feedback from people when I am out at events," he said.

Watson said people do deserve to know his plans well in advance. "I think it's fair to let people know where you are going to stand, so it doesn't come as a surprise," he said.

Watson said he is not worried about the political climate that exists south of the border being transferred to Ottawa politics, but he does believe there is a problem on social media.

"We see it through social media where it is unfiltered and unchecked and people will say things that are completely untrue," he said. "I take too much time pushing back against people who are just outlandish."

He said his focus is on the long-term and he doesn't want to get weighed down on every issue. "Leadership is not about having a knee-jerk reaction to the issue of the day. It's trying to plan for future generations, not just future elections," he said.

Watson said he believes Ottawans are upbeat about the city.

"They're optimistic about the future. They're looking forward to 2017. They see a lot of files that were stuck in the mud here for years finally out of the mud," he said.

He said his critics also sometimes feel the city hasn't listened to them, when he believes they simply disagree. "There is a chasm between listening and disagreeing and just because five or six people have come out to oppose something doesn't mean you should fold," he said.

He pointed to the opposition to the Lansdowne Park redevelopment, as an area where council had to continue over objections. "Landsdowne has been a complete success story."

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO OTTAWA

Jim Watson is half-way through his current term as mayor.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

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PARLIAMENT HILL HOUSE OF COMMONS RISES The Peace Tower is cast in afternoon light on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Wednesday. The House of Commons unanimously voted Wednesday afternoon to rise for the Christmas break. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hikes to property tax, water coming

BUDGET 2017

Low-income transit pass will also be implemented

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

City councillors may have passed Ottawa's 2017 budget unanimously on Wednesday, but it took three hours of discussion over policing strategies and transit passes to get there.

"We should all be very proud of this balanced, but ambitious, financial plan," said Mayor Jim Watson, linking the budget to the holiday season and the less fortunate.

The 2017 budget brings a two per cent hike in property taxes and a five per cent increase in water rates.

The garbage pick-up fee will also see a small increase.

The city will also be implementing a low-income transit pass.

A number of councillors voiced their opinions on changes to the city's policing budget and concerns about the sudden increase in shootings and murders.

"One of the sayings we use is, 'You can't arrest your way out of this problem,'" said police chief Charles Bordeleau.

> **We should all be very proud of this balanced, but ambitious, financial plan.**
> Mayor Jim Watson

"Each one of those deaths are tragic, and there are different circumstances and reasons why those homicides have taken place, but in the majority of cases is a disturbing, rapid escalation of violence," said Bordeleau.

"The ease of use of a knife or a gun that's available to them — that is disturbing. As chiefs we are having those very same discussions as to seeing what is driving this," he said.

Three councillors — Riley Brockington, Mathieu Fleury and Catherine McKenney — dissented on the budget.

All three said they weren't satisfied with a police budget that would mean less community officers.

Unrelated to the budget debate, Coun. Diane Deans asked for an audit into the land acquisitions taking place during phase one of the LRT project.

"I believe as we move forward there are lessons to be learned from the first phase. I feel that members of the public should know how much this costs," said Deans.

Council voted down the suggestion after concerns were raised that any leak of information — even after a confidential briefing — could affect future negotiations.

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Evenings: 6 pm to 9 pm (7 levels)
Saturdays: 9 am to noon (1 level)

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4 weeks (60 hours in class and 60 hours online)
FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (6 LEVELS)
January 9 to February 3, 2017
Levels 1, 3 and 5: 9 am to noon
Levels 2, 4 and 6: 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm
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CANADA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

Ottawa releases 2017 custom condoms

Ottawa Public Health is expecting a lot of "action" in 2017 and are preparing with special Ottawa-themed condoms.

The project follows the success of a Toronto campaign that had residents designing condom wrappers.

The winning entry is a TTC design that says "transfers are for buses only."

"STI rates, like gonorrhea and Chlamydia rates, have been going up in the last couple of years," said Christiane Bouchard, project officer with Healthy Sexuality and Risk Reduction unit.

"People get attracted to fun stuff, so we thought 2017 was a good opportunity. There will be a lot of people in town," said Bouchard.

The whole point of the campaign is to get people talking — and OPH didn't shy away from dirty puns.

One of the cheekier proposals reads, "Protect your..." followed by a cartoon of a rooster.

"If we're always too calm and conservative, you're missing out on a segment of the population," said Bouchard.

Ottawa Public Health's "Sex It Smart" website, aimed at ages 15-29, promotes condom use and STI testing.

The new condom wrappers are supposed to drive traffic to the website.

OPH's internal graphics team came up with the designs.

Aside from the rooster (which is so far leading on the Facebook page votes) the other designs play on maple leafs, hockey and previous slogans.

Bouchard said Ottawa Public Health is just testing the designs out and may just print one, or it may implement all four.

The organization is also open to submitted designs.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Health Minister Eric Hoskins. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget cuts high billers

HEALTH CARE

Less money for specialists gives savings to family docs

Ontario's lengthy dispute with its doctors escalated Wednesday as the province's medical association dismissed as "unreasonable" a government proposal that would see fee cuts for high-billing specialists and more money for family physicians.

The proposed plan is the latest attempt by the Liberal government to work toward a physician services agreement with doctors, who voted overwhelmingly earlier this year to reject a tentative agreement.

Under the plan the government handed the Ontario Medical Association on Wednesday, the approximately 500 doctors who bill over $1 million would see fee cuts, while those savings would go toward an increase for family physicians.

The government is also proposing to fully review all 7,000 fee codes, as technological advances have made some procedures and tests easier and less time consuming.

OMA president Dr. Virginia Walley said the latest government proposal is a rehash of the tentative agreement that physicians roundly rejected in the summer.

"In response to this absolutely unreasonable and absolutely unfair unilateral action by the government this morning, all options are on the table for physicians in the province."

Doctors have said they won't return to negotiations unless the government puts binding arbitration in place. Health Minister Eric Hoskins said he's willing to discuss it, but won't accept it as a precondition for negotiations.

The proposal comes as Premier Kathleen Wynne is asking the federal government for Ottawa's health transfers to the provinces to increase by 5.2 per cent a year, instead of the scheduled three per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Police charge man after car-jacking, hit-and-run

Ottawa police have charged a man following an alleged car-jacking and a hit-and-run earlier this year.

Police say the suspect pulled a man from his vehicle at a gas station at the corner of Lorry Greenberg and Hunt Club at 11:45 p.m. on May 24. The suspect then got into the vehicle and sped off, police allege.

The vehicle turned onto Cahill Drive at a high rate of speed, lost control and hit another vehicle.

Police say the suspect got out of the car and fled on foot. Mohamed Mahamud, 25, is charged with robbery, dangerous driving and failure to remain. Police say he is already behind bars on an unrelated matter. He will appear in court on Jan. 24, 2017.

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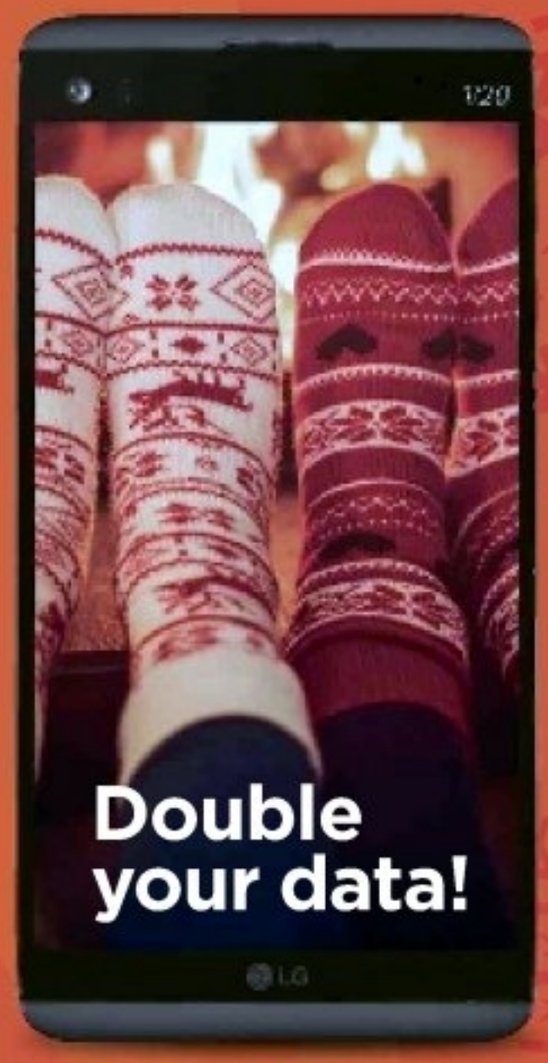

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Feds scrap controversial visa process

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister John McCallum in the House of Commons. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

IMMIGRATION

Spots allotted by random lottery after red flags raised

Coveted spots for the parent and grandparent visa program will be awarded by lottery in 2017 after the federal Liberals have scrapped the old first-come, first-serve system that had raised concerns over people paying to be at the front of that line.

Applications for the over-subscribed program had been accepted only via courier or mail at a single immigration office, and since they were processed in the order received, couriers had been doing brisk business promising to be at the front of the line, in exchange for fees that could be as high as $400.

But that system has now been replaced by a random draw, the federal immigration minister announced Wednesday.

"We're ensuring everyone can access the application process by giving them the same chance to have their name chosen," Immigration Minister John McCallum said in a statement.

Beginning Jan. 3, Canadians will have 30 days to fill out an online form indicating their desire to sponsor a parent or grandparent. From those, immigration officials will randomly draw 10,000 individuals who will then be asked to submit the full application within 90 days.

The change comes after The Canadian Press first reported earlier this year that the previous first-come, first-serve process was seeing couriers charge more than $400 to guarantee applications would be at the top of the pile for the spots available in 2016.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECONCILIATION

Councillor sorry for TRC comments

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

A Winnipeg city councillor has apologized for saying that training city workers on the legacy of the country's residential school system would take them away from doing their jobs, like filling potholes or cutting the grass.

During a council meeting, Coun. Jeff Browaty said he supports Mayor Brian Bowman's commitment to reconciliation, but said he draws the line at spending extra money to train employees.

Educating public servants and government workers about residential schools and indigenous histories is one initiative listed in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report, which council discussed on Wednesday.

"Taking away or paying employees overtime to attend this type of training, taking them away from cutting the grass, filling potholes, providing the services we count on, I don't think that is our position," Browaty said.

Around 90 minutes later, he issued a statement apologizing for his comments and clarifying that his concern was about the costs related to the training.

"In reality, they're talking about taking people away from their jobs for a half-day session," reads the statement. "In the course of a year, the City of Winnipeg issues around 10,000 T-4 slips. That would equal 5,000 working days people would be away from their jobs and in this training. I don't think it's necessary for a grass cutter, payroll clerk or pothole filler to take this training.

"I apologize if my comments offended anyone. I simply don't see this as the city's role."

NO WHITE WASHING

An Edmonton city planner says the city won't "white wash" proposed indigenous street names, even if some residents have a hard time pronouncing them. Cory Sousa, a principal planner in sustainable development who manages naming roads, said Tuesday the city's naming committee largely doesn't let pronunciation issues alter approvals for new street names. METRO

ELECTORAL REFORM

Survey should protect privacy, watchdog says

The federal privacy watchdog has opened a formal investigation into the Trudeau government's much-maligned online survey on electoral reform, which asks participants to disclose detailed personal information.

But privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien is not waiting to conclude the investigation before taking action to protect Canadians' privacy.

Therrien has provided preliminary recommendations to the government aimed at better protecting the privacy of people who participate in the MyDemocracy.ca survey, his spokeswoman, Valerie Lawton, said Wednesday.

Lawton confirmed that Therrien's office will investigate a complaint about the survey and hopes to have the issue resolved as quickly as possible.

The survey runs to the end of the month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Residents feel 'duped' by renewed fighting

SYRIA

Aleppo ceasefire unravels as fighting starts once again

A ceasefire to evacuate rebel fighters and civilians from the remaining opposition-held neighbourhoods of Aleppo unraveled on Wednesday, once again raising the spectre of a bloody end to the battle for Syria's largest city as residents reported the resumption of shelling and brutal bombing runs.

Opponents of President Bashar Assad accused the government and its allies of scuttling the deal by adding new conditions.

However, hours after it crumbled, the rebels said the deal was back on. Three rebel spokesmen said the first group of wounded people and civilians were to be escorted out of the city early Thursday morning. Rebels would follow, they said, adding that the conditions had not changed.

The evacuation was to have begun at dawn Wednesday, but quickly derailed, descending into violence. Residents said government buses arrived in the pre-dawn hours at agreed upon meeting points, where the wounded were first in line to be evacuated. But they were turned away by pro-government militias. Then violence erupted: shelling and then airstrikes. The rebels retaliated, at one point shelling the pro-government villages of Foua and Kfraya in Idlib and detonating a car bomb in a frontline area.

Mohammed Abu Jaafar, head of forensics in eastern Aleppo, said residents felt "duped."

"People have left their shelters .... to be ready for the evacuation. I can't describe it," Abu Jaafar said. "Since the morning, they started to target the areas where people have gathered." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smoke is seen billowing in the background on Wednesday in a rebel-held neighbourhood of Aleppo. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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Beauty queen muzzled at Miss World: Reports

Canadian beauty queen Anastasia Lin is allowed to smile and look pretty at the Miss World pageant in Washington, but she's reportedly barred from opening her mouth and speaking her mind about human rights abuses in China.

Pageant officials wouldn't connect Torstar with Lin, 26, on Wednesday. Lin was blocked from attending last year's Miss World pageant in China after her criticism of Chinese human rights abuses against Falun Gong practitioners.

American news reports say that she's not allowed to speak with the media this time around.

And the hosts of a film in which she stars say she has been blocked from attending its Washington premiere tonight. The film sharply criticizes Chinese human rights practices and is being presented by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

"We were informed by the organization that she would not be able to attend tonight," Marion Smith, a spokesperson for the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, said on Wednesday.

Smith said that pageant officials hadn't passed on messages to her, despite assurances that they would.

"Their stated reason is that they have rehearsals and they were unable to release her to attend," Smith said.

American news reports say Anastasia Lin is not allowed to speak with the media this time around. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lin, a Chinese-born actress and classically trained pianist, has posted on Twitter and Facebook about human rights conditions in China, especially regarding the Falun Gong meditation system. The Falun Gong is outlawed in China.

Amnesty International is among the human rights groups that has widely reported abuse of Falun Gong practitioners in China.

On Facebook and Twitter, she has posted clips from her film, The Bleeding Edge, in which she plays a Falun Gong practitioner who's locked up and tortured for her beliefs. The organization sponsored the premiere.

She has also accused the Chinese government online of illegally harvesting organs from Falun Gong practitioners. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Newspaper won't stand by Santa story

The Associated Press published a story, relying on information from the Knoxville News-Sentinel, about a man portraying Santa Claus who says a terminally ill boy died in his arms.

The paper now says that it cannot verify the man's story and no longer stands by it.

The story, published in the News-Sentinel on Sunday was about Eric Schmitt-Matzen, who said he had promised to protect the identities of the child's family.

In a story posted online, editor Jack McElroy and columnist Sam Venable said Schmitt-Matzen's story "remains unverified."

They wrote that they could not determine whether his account was accurate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Vancouver-filmed The Man In The High Castle is one of the Amazon originals Canadians will want to test drive on Amazon Prime Video. COURTESY AMAZON

Prime time on Amazon

STREAMING VIDEO

What to watch now the service has launched in Canada

It isn't fair — that has to be what the Canadian broadcast competition is saying now that Amazon Prime Video is officially here. Enjoyed for years in the U.S., Britain and elsewhere, Amazon is a streaming service not unlike Netflix.

Like Netflix, Amazon has courted and partnered with seasoned storytellers and is in business with the best. Canadians got a taste of what all the fuss was about when Transparent and Mozart in the Jungle were reasons to subscribe to Shomi. Once that service pulled the plug, the clock began ticking as to when Amazon would crack the Canadian market.

That day has arrived. First out of the gate is The Grand Tour, a reality motoring series starring notorious Top Gear trio Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May. Beyond that show, here's a tour of some Amazon originals Canadians will want to test drive:

FLEABAG:

Phoebe Waller-Bridge dares you to look away. Based on her one-woman play, this six-part British series has pitch-perfect black comedy. It stars Waller-Bridge as an audaciously unlikable young woman trying to survive the mean streets of modern London.

RED OAKS:

Set in the '80s, Red Oaks is about a young college student who works summers as a tennis pro at the snooty Red Oaks Country Club. Stealing scenes is Canadian Ennis Esmer (The Listener) who aces his role as the club's charm-dog tennis pro. "Not a sendup of the 1980s," wrote the New York Times, "but a surprisingly straightforward extension of the genre." Season 2 is even better.

THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE:

Shot in Vancouver, The Man in the High Castle spent a year as the best show filmed in Canada that Canadians couldn't (legally) see. The premise is an instant grabber: suppose Hitler had won. The drama is set in the early '60s with the U.S. divided on both coasts by Germany and Japan. Season 2 has just begun.

CRISIS IN SIX SCENES:

Woody Allen stooping to television? Well, Amazon offered complete creative control. It is no Annie Hall. Miley Cyrus is more Whiny Cyrus as a '60s activist. Allen the actor gamely tries to revive his cowardly, nervous movie shtick, but the real delight is seeing Elaine May shake off the rust.

GOOD GIRLS REVOLT:

Still seeking that Mad Men fix? Good Girls Revolt comes close. The series follows a group of young newsmagazine researchers as the women's movement gains momentum in the late '60s. Toronto-born Chris Diamantopoulos (Silicon Valley) is their workaholic editor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DATA BREACH

Billion Yahoo accounts hacked

Yahoo says it believes hackers stole data from more than one billion user accounts in August 2013, in what is thought to be the largest data breach at an email provider.

The California company was also home to what's now most likely the second largest hack in history, one that exposed 500 million Yahoo accounts. The company disclosed that breach in September. Yahoo said it hasn't identified the intrusion associated with this theft.

Yahoo says the information stolen may include names, email addresses, phone numbers, birthdates and security questions and answers. The company says it believes bank-account information and payment-card data were not affected.

The new hack revelation raises fresh questions about Verizon's $4.8 billion US proposed acquisition of Yahoo, and whether the big mobile carrier will seek to modify or abandon its bid. If the hacks cause a user backlash against Yahoo, the company's services wouldn't be as valuable to Verizon. The telecom giant wants Yahoo and its many users to help it build a digital ad business.

Yahoo said Wednesday that it is requiring users to change their passwords and invalidating security questions so they can't be used to hack into accounts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ashley Madison's parent pays $1.6M in settlements

The parent company of infidelity dating site Ashley Madison said it has reached settlements in an investigation led by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. Ruby Corp. said it has paid more than $1.6 million US, with half the money going to the FTC and half to the states participating in the probe.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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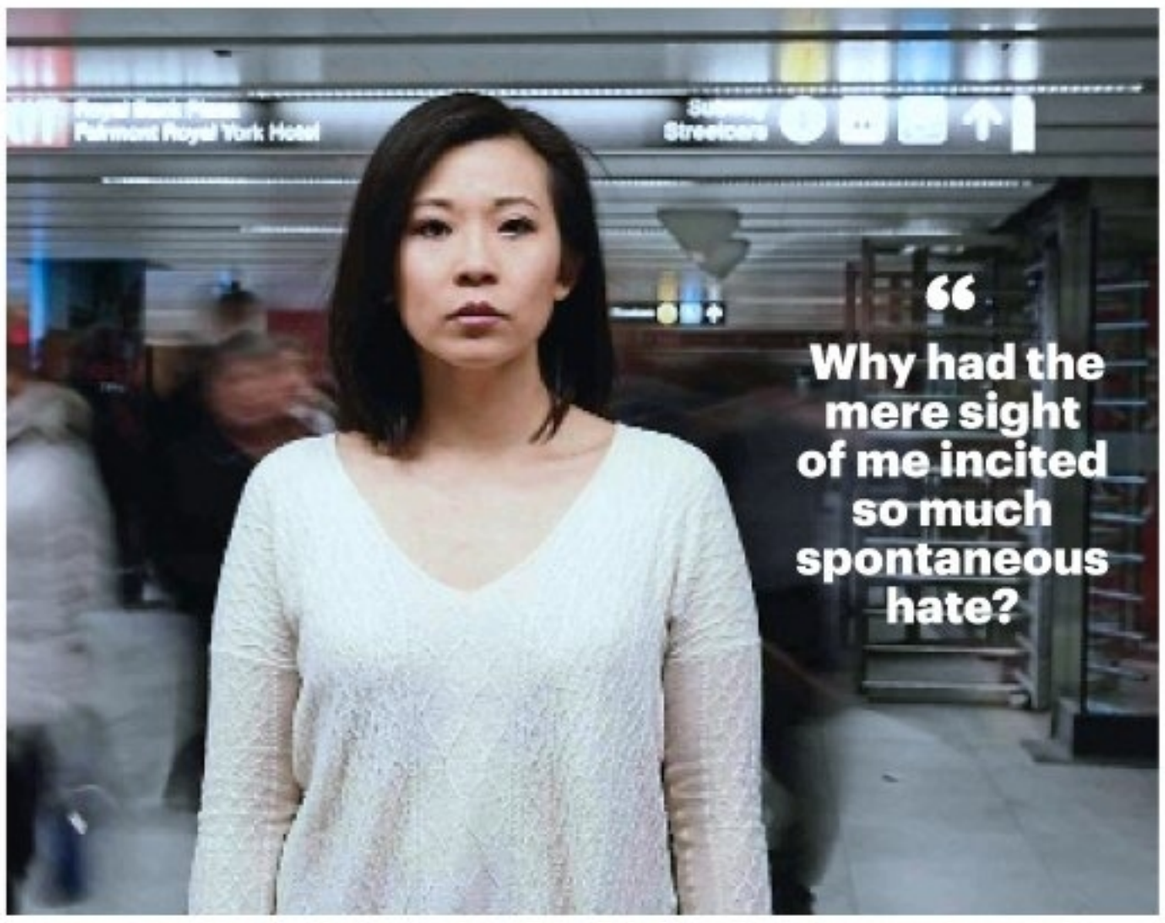
metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, December 15, 2016

REFLECTION

Ending hate is on all of us

On Wednesday morning, Metro staffer Irene Kuan was the target of a racist remark hurled by a fellow transit rider. She has spent her whole life living and working in Toronto, and this was a first.

Irene Kuan
Metro | Toronto



Irene Kuan, Metro's associate managing editor, digital, stands on a Toronto subway platform.
LANCE MCMILLAN/FOR METRO

"Go back to Hong Kong," a raspy voice of a man shouted at me, as I was about to exit the subway Wednesday morning.

It was so out of nowhere that the words didn't even register with me until about five minutes later when I was outside Union Station in downtown Toronto.

The first thing I actually thought about upon stepping out into the elements was the extreme cold weather alert that had been issued for the city that morning. But then it dawned on me: I'd been the target of a random verbal racist attack.

Working as I do in the news industry, I've been aware of the recent surge in public acts of racism, both in this country and in the United States — pro-"white people" posters on lightposts, spray-painted swastikas, verbal assaults of hijab-wearing women. But, as a Canadian-born Chinese journalist, I'd never really thought about it happening to me.

And then it did. A random person told me to go back to a place I'm not even from. And, at some point in the aftermath, it occurred to me that, no, this actually had happened to me before.

This past summer I was driving down an empty dirt road with my boyfriend in a ghost town called Vroomanton, northwest of Sunderland, Ont., when we suddenly saw a random flash of a middle finger from a Caucasian couple speeding by us on a motorcycle. Then, too, I had a delayed reaction. I realize now that in the moment I was more concerned about being presumptuous, about the possibility of taking offence to a gesture that, perhaps, was not as it had seemed. Others have since told me they'd be outraged if had been in my shoes.

Now, hours after the latest incident, when I think back to the words that man said to me this morning, I really don't know how to react. I'm not angry or upset, just surprised that it happened. Because it's 2016.

Both times, I found myself asking why I had been targeted. I was just going about my own business. I didn't do anything to provoke anybody. Why had the mere sight of me incited in perfect strangers so much spontaneous hate that they felt compelled to act out so randomly and viciously?

I know there's no logical answer; it's a senseless act. What, beyond acknowledging that an awful thing has happened, can I really say or do?

These experiences have led me think of the story of Stephanie Kim, a Toronto woman who was subjected to racial slurs standing in line at a TD bank back in November of this year. In recalling the event to the Toronto Star, Kim said that not even the bank staff, let alone her fellow patrons, came to her defence as a man standing behind her in line called her a "chink." (By the way, Kim is Korean, not Chinese.)

Kim said that, more than the insults themselves; the staff's passive attitude when she complained about the man is what made her feel like a second-class citizen.

It's easy to see that the proliferation of these incidents is the natural by-product of the current political climate, in which some have been led to believe that phrases like "Make America Great Again" and "Canadian Values" are open invitations to promote, and directly express, bigotry and racism.

It's disappointing enough that there are people out there who, having apparently confused their resentment-fuelled desire to spew hate speech with their constitutional right to free speech, act out like this in public.

But even worse is that, collectively, we seem not yet to have realized how dangerous it is to stand by and accept hateful vitriol directed at others. In this way, our society normalizes hatred and resentment. And that's not any one individual's problem.

Neither the victim nor the perpetrator of racist violence, verbal or otherwise, should be expected to assume full responsibility for what all of us should be calling by its true name — hate — and fighting against whenever, wherever and however it appears.

Metro ain't having it

Have you recently seen, heard or been the target of racist outbursts in your community? If so, how did you address it? How do you wish you addressed it? Tell us all about it. Tweet using the hashtag #ainthavingit or email us: **readers@metronews.ca**

VICKY MOCHAMA

Look out, Silicon Valley — Canada Post wants in

A House of Commons committee on Tuesday made recommendations for the future of Canada Post. There are dozens, some of which are things one hopes they're currently doing such as number 38: "Canada Post focus on its core competencies to help Canada meet the challenges of the 21st century."

However, the idea that caught my eye is a suggestion that the company create a "free digital infrastructure," which might mean "providing the basis for a Canadian social network." The committee's actual recommendations don't get into what that looks like or means but I think it's worth exploring.

Canada Post is, for example, ideally suited to run a Canadian version of Tinder. Using a combination of their near-pristine location data, Facebook profiles and types of mail received, Canadians might start hooking up courtesy of the nation's mail delivery service. Imagine the stories. "Kids, I met your grandfather when he swiped right on my profile because he saw that I was a skier who regularly sent express mail."

The marriage rate has been in decline for a while. With a Canada Post dating service (PostDates? Mail and Tail? Just thinking aloud here), we could turn things around for the nation's beleaguered single people.

That may not work for people who are already married unless Canada Post is willing to compete with Ashley Madison.

For Canadians who are already coupled up, Canada Post could run a Snapchat-like service for couples worried whether their Christmas presents will arrive in time. Rather than a tracking number that says that your package has been in Mississauga for far too long, couples can get filtered pictures of their packages as they travel the country. Nothing adds a frisson to marriage like watching a box with a flower crown make its way to your mother-in-law. The excitement is hard to contain.

According to a 2011 piece by the Toronto Star, more than 18,000 wallets end up in Canada Post's Undeliverable Mail Offices. The company tries to reunite them with their owners. Other items, however, are sold off or destroyed after seven months. What if they ran a ChatRoulette-style services for those pieces? Just log in, press a button and you can get seven-months-late invoice from a dentist's office in Lethbridge. Or you could get a hand-stitched quilt from someone's grandmother. Sounds like a lottery with only winners to me.

As the business of mail continues to shift dramatically, it's worth putting every idea on the table. For some, physical mail is a relic of the past but for others, it is still an essential need. A Canada Post with a strong and smart digital presence could marry both worlds.

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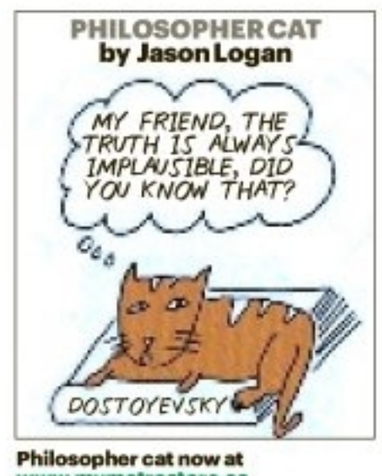

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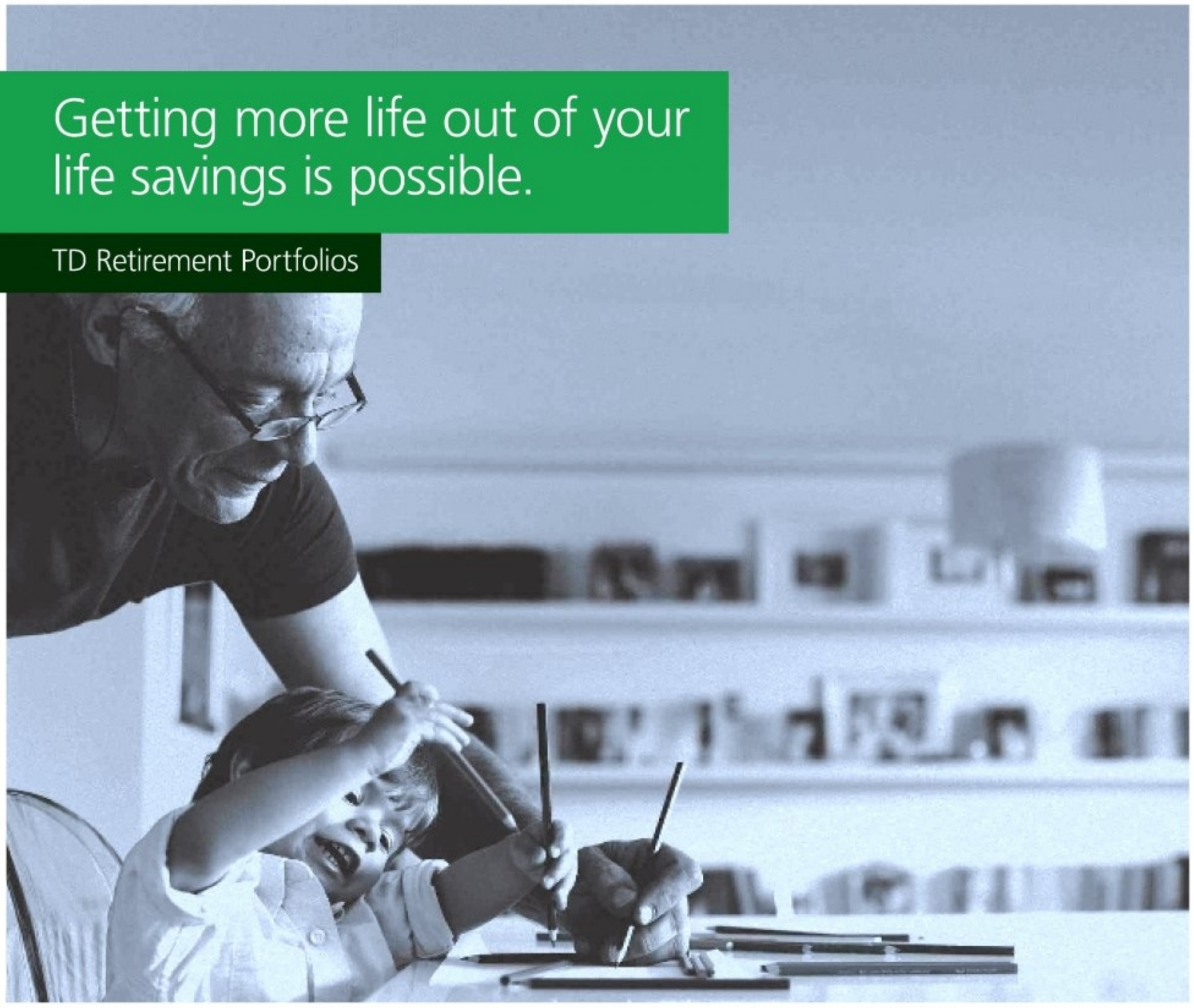

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Cocoa prices fall to three-year low, making chocolate cheaper

Loving Christmas when you're not Christian

Vancouver resident Almeera Ismail goes all out for Christmas: she bakes festive cookies, decorates a tree and buys gifts for family. As a Muslim, her love of the holiday grew when she moved to Ottawa as a student, "and you reach for things that make you feel homey or ground you." JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO; INSET: COURTESY ALMEERA ISMAIL

CULTURE

Group rituals bind a society together, says religion prof

Megan Haynes
For Metro Canada

Almeera Ismail adores Christmas.

The 30-year-old Vancouver native goes all out: homemade cards, festive cookies, gifts for her nieces, a small tree.

But as a Muslim, Ismail didn't start celebrating until she was in high school when she and her sisters convinced their parents to let them get a Christmas tree. When she went to university in Ottawa, her love of the holiday grew.

"It was when I moved away — and you reach for things that make you feel homey or ground you — that I started to really get into Christmas and the spirit of being around friends and family over the holidays," she says. When her sister entered an inter-faith relationship with a Christian man and the pair had a baby, even Ismail's parents came on board the holiday trend. Now, the whole family celebrates on Christmas Eve, exchanging presents and feasting.

Increasingly, people of all faiths and backgrounds are tuning into Christmas in some form.

A 2011 study by Ottawa-based Abacus, which polled just over 1,000 people, found of the 92 per cent of respondents who said they celebrate the holidays, 52 per cent do not consider themselves Christian.

There are a couple factors at play here, says Christopher Helland, professor of religion in contemporary culture at Dalhousie University. First, as a society, we're becoming more secular: In 2011, Statistics Canada found a quarter of the population said they had no religious affiliation, up from 16 per cent in 2001. Second, we're seeing more people from other faiths arrive in the country: from the last census, 8.8 per cent of the population is of a non-Christian faith, up from 4.8% a decade earlier.

As a result of this shift, society has moved towards a more inclusive season, opting for phrasing like "Happy Holidays," Helland says.

That has offended some people: "Some groups are very upset about that. (They) feel taking the Christ out of Christmas isn't a good thing," he says. However, the shift towards a less religious-filled holiday has made it more acceptable of people of other faiths to participate however they want.

While there are some culturally imposed traditions, such as spending time with family, trees and gift giving, for those of different faith backgrounds wanting to celebrate, it's a great opportunity to build in new rituals without some of the pressures others might face.

"Sometimes the beliefs behind the rituals change, or adapt, take on different meaning. But we certainly like to do the ritual — they are important," Helland says. In fact, allowing the tradition to change and adapt to be more inclusive can help be a bridge in society, he says.

It's not a new idea: an early sociologist, Emile Durkheim, said at the turn of the 20th century that in the absence of a religious tie, in a modernist society these group rituals become the things that bind a society together.

"It's pushed on us pretty heavily that 'This is the holidays, this where you do the gift giving and be with family," says Helland "It's hard to not be part of that if you're part of our society and culture."

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Amy Schumer picks her battle: women are people too

THE SHOW: Amy Schumer Live at the Apollo (HBO) Dec. 15
THE MOMENT: Debunking the label

"I'm labeled a sex comic," Amy Schumer says on stage. She wears a short black dress and tall nude pumps, and occasionally swigs from a wine bottle. "I think it's just because I'm a girl. A guy could get up here and literally pull his [junk] out and everyone would be like, 'He's a thinker.'

"I think sex is explained incorrectly as far as men's and women's roles go," she continues. "We're told over and over, 'Men love sex, women just deal with it.' Every sitcom, the guy gets home from work: 'Honey, how 'bout tonight?' And she's always, 'Bleah,' laundry, laundry.

"It's insane," Schumer concludes. "Every girl I know loves having sex. But you're made to feel disgusting and weird. What girl would say, 'No, I don't want to feel the one good thing we're allowed as humans'?"

I'm editing a bit here. Schumer says those lines, but she surrounds them with unprintable tangents, about how she has to treat artists' erections like souffles and other such trademark bawdiness. And while you're laughing at the raunch, she's sneaking in the feminism.

Schumer is a sex comic in one important regard: because she's made sex the final, funniest battleground in the gender-parity wars. She repeatedly tackles it on her series, but in this one-hour special she distills it to its essence.

Its essence is this: Women are allowed to feel everything men are, because women are people. That's the truly shocking thing about Schumer's routine — it's nearly 2017, and that idea still feels subversive.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Amy Schumer tackles gender parity norms. CONTRIBUTED

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She had 'brains, beauty and breeches'

INTERVIEW

Canada's Aloha Wanderwell was first woman to drive the globe

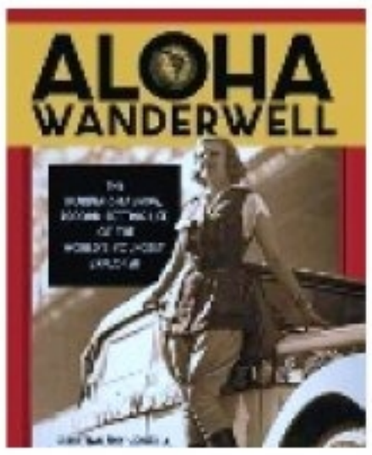
Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

With her blond ringlets, Kewpie-doll lips and statuesque height, Aloha Wanderwell could be a Hollywood invention, leaning against a Ford Model-T, all sass and swagger. But what her 1920s publicity photo doesn't reveal — and what has, for the most part, been buried in history — is that at the age of 16, Wanderwell embarked on an adventure that, among her many records, would make her the first woman to drive around the world, covering 380,000 miles and 80 countries before the age of 30.

Back in 1998, Vancouver television producer Randolph Eustace-Wallace, co-author of the book Aloha Wanderwell: The Border-Smashing, Record-Setting Life of the World's Youngest Explorer, was using the brand-new Google search engine to research his own adventure when he stumbled onto her story.

Eustace-Wallace was looking for information on driving around the world when his cousin called from Ontario needing help with travel plans to Hawaii. He entered "Aloha Airlines" into Google, which mixed with his online search for driving, and up popped a story about Wanderwell. Intrigued, he saved the link, but it wasn't until a couple years later, when he partnered with journalist Christian Fink-Jensen, his co-author on Aloha Wanderwell, did their decade of detective work begin in earnest.

At this point, the duo didn't know that Wanderwell was originally named Idris Hall, born in Winnipeg in 1906, or that her husband had been jailed as a German spy (and later murdered). None of that is mentioned in her 1939 ghostwritten autobiography, Call To Adventure.



"The ghostwriter tarted it up, and added a lot of fiction, made it more melodramatic," says Eustace-Wallace. "When we first read it, we thought, 'It's too bad she's such a terrible writer,' but as it turns out, she was incredible."

Wanderwell's story is so incredible it doesn't require embellishment. In 1922, while the bored teenager was attending school, she answered an ad looking for women with "Brains, Beauty & Breeches" to accompany Captain Ralph Wanderwell — whom she would eventually marry — as a driver and secretary on his international expeditions.

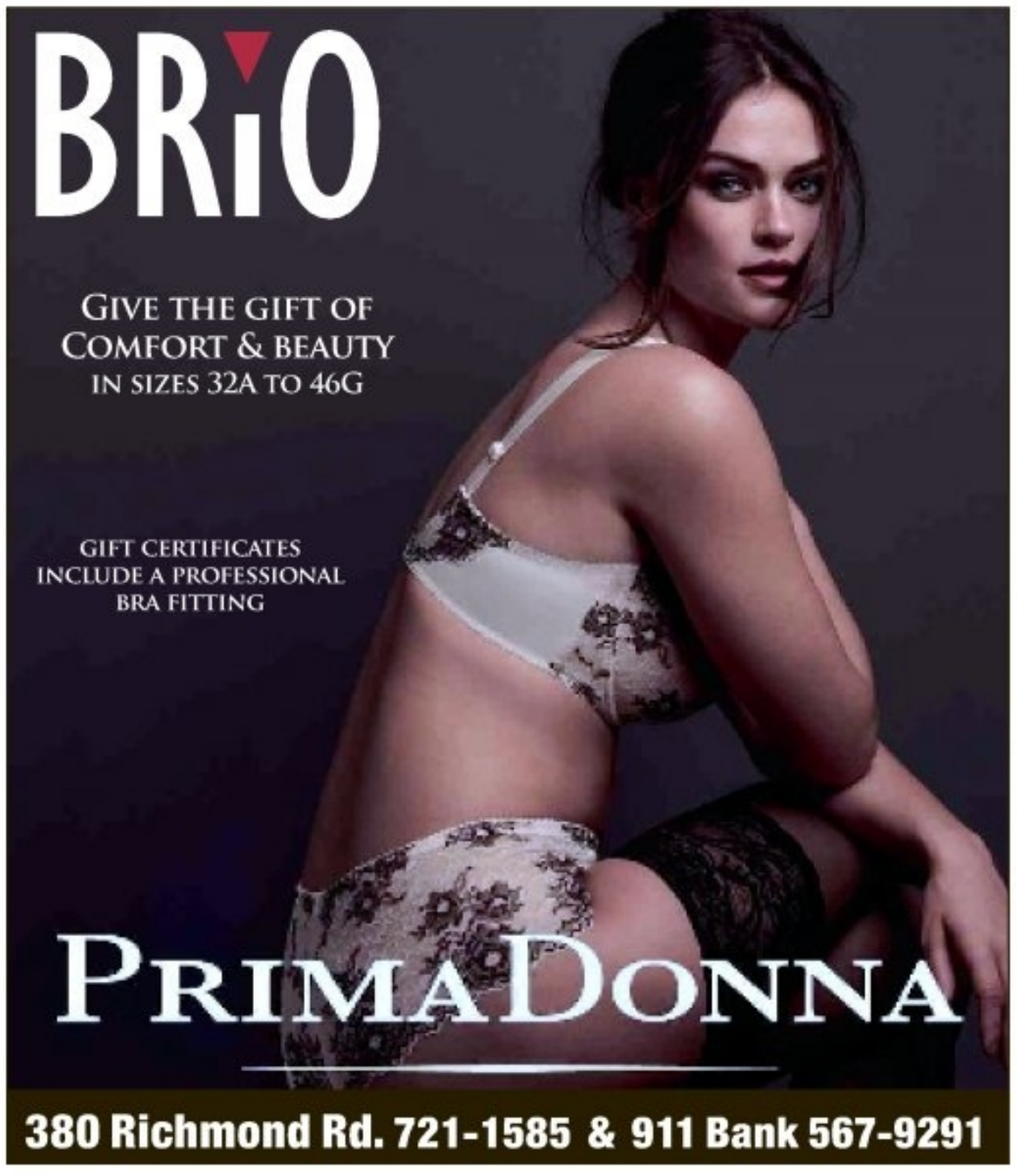
"For 10 years, their escapades were front-page news," says Eustace-Wallace. And yet, he and Fink-Jensen found plenty of conflicting information during their arduous research process, mainly because Wanderwell had reinvented her own personal history. "It's difficult to tell a non-fiction story about someone who tried to keep their life under wraps," he says.

As it turns out, the key to unlocking Aloha's mystery was Wanderwell's children. In order to gain access to films produced by Wanderwell that had been bequeathed to the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian, Eustace-Wallace and Fink-Jensen needed permission from her two offspring. When Valri, who lived in Honolulu at the time, discovered that the two writers were Canadian, she embraced their request. As it turns out, she and her brother Nile, now in their 80s, had been raised on Vancouver Island, and still had fond memories of their early years.

Forgotten Canadian adventurer Aloha Wanderwell. CONTRIBUTED

The writers and children became close. During one trip to Honolulu, Valri appeared with a dusty tin box she had recently discovered that was labelled with her mother's initials. Eustace-Wallace picked the lock and discovered the "Rosetta Stone": Wanderwell's original passport containing every border crossing (many of which were contrary to other reports), her logbooks and a draft of an unpublished memoir. they had all the details needed to shed light on one of Canada's most incredible adventurers. As Eustace-Wallace concludes, "It's the story of someone who was lost to history, and shouldn't be."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



Manchester by the Sea storms back with Screen Actors nods

NOMINATIONS

La La Land hits wrong note as Guild opts for Affleck and co.

Michelle Williams was nominated for best supporting actress for Manchester By the Sea while Moonlight's Mahershala Ali also made the cut for supporting actor. HANDOUTS

La La Land may have hit all the right notes for the Golden Globes, but the Screen Actors Guild sung a different tune Wednesday, when Kenneth Lonergan's New England-set family drama Manchester by the Sea picked up the most nominations. Its leading four nods included best ensemble cast, best actor for Casey Affleck and best supporting performances for Michelle Williams and Lucas Hedges.

Barry Jenkins' coming-of-age tale Moonlight and Denzel Washington's August Wilson adaptation Fences followed with three each, including ensemble. They'll be competing with the fact-based NASA crowd-pleaser Hidden Figures and the family drama Captain Fantastic. Shut out of the coveted ensemble award was Damien Chazelle's candy-coloured musical La La Land, which scored nominations only for its leads, Emma Stone and London, Ont.-native Ryan Gosling.

Sophia Bush and Common announced the nominees early Wednesday morning in West Hollywood, California.

In the past, SAG nominees have served as helpful predictors of who will land nominations in the four Oscar acting categories.

While some categories looked generally as expected, like the supporting actress nods for Williams, Fences' Viola Davis, Moonlight's Naomie Harris, Lion's Nicole Kidman and Hidden Figures' Octavia Spencer, others were quite surprising.

In the lead actress category, Annette Bening failed to pick up a nomination for 20th Century Women. Bening had been an assumed lock for an Oscar nomination and had been considered a top contender against front-runners Natalie Portman (Jackie) and Stone (La La Land), both of whom were recognized. Instead, SAG nominated Emily Blunt for the adapted thriller The Girl on the Train, which scored tepid reviews from critics and had not been seen as a major awards contender. Meryl Streep (Florence Foster Jenkins) and Amy Adams (Arrival) were also nominated.

Lead actors nominated were Affleck, Gosling, Andrew Garfield (Hacksaw Ridge), Viggo Mortensen (Captain Fantastic) and Denzel Washington (Fences).

On the supporting side for actors, Moonlight's Mahershala Ali continues to dominate the category with another nomination. He'll be competing against Manchester's Hedges, Jeff Bridges for Hell or High Water, Dev Patel for Lion and Hugh Grant for Florence Foster Jenkins.

Also missing were nominations for Jeff Nichols' fact-based civil rights film Loving and its leads Ruth Negga and Joel Edgerton, as well as for French actress Isabelle Huppert, who has won many of the critics' awards for her performance in the edgy Elle.

On the television side, series newcomers The Crown, Westworld and Stranger Things all picked up three nominations each, alongside Emmys favourite The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story and Game of Thrones.

The 23rd annual Screen Actors Guild Awards take place Jan. 29 from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CELEBRITIES ON INSTA

Doherty opens up on fight

Shannen Doherty is giving an up-close look at her fight against breast cancer.

The former Beverly Hills, 90210 actress shared an Instagram photo Tuesday of herself in a hospital gown alongside her mother. She wrote that she was undergoing another day of radiation adding, "Today my mom came with me because Even though I'm so tired after, I'm going Christmas shopping!!!" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS;INSTAGRAM/THESHANDO

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Drug poses real danger

NATIONAL STRATEGY

Fentanyl's deadly rep a public health concern

Jen Traplin

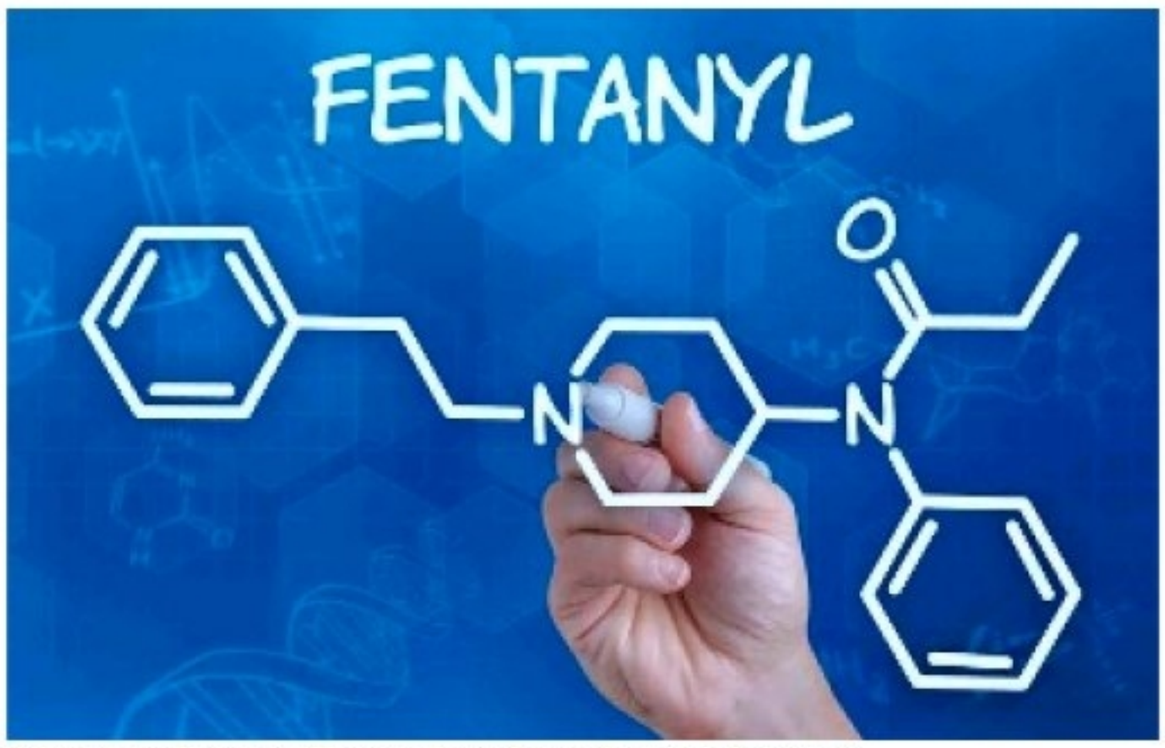
While yet to be officially declared as a national public health emergency, the number of fentanyl-related overdoses and deaths in Canada continues to rise.

Fentanyl is a prescribed synthetic opiate pain medication that is roughly 100 times more potent than morphine. A lethal dose of pure fentanyl for a typical adult can be as little as two milligrams — the size of just a few grains of salt.

While many rely on it to treat severe pain, a rising number of recreational drug users are accessing the narcotic illegally in a variety of ways. According to the RCMP, importing and selling fentanyl has now become one of the fastest growing industries in Canada's illicit drug trade.

Much of the country's illicit fentanyl is believed to come from China. It's often found mixed with other drugs — like heroin, cocaine and MDMA — making it especially dangerous as many users are unaware they are even consuming it.

The federal government is taking steps to try to reduce fentanyl and other opioid abuse.



A dose as small as two milligrams of pure fentanyl can be lethal. ISTOCK

OPIOID OVERDOSES BY THE NUMBERS

A new report by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) on hospitalizations and ER visits due to opioid overdose in Canada found that between 2007-2008 and 2014-2015, the rate of hospitalizations due to opioid poisoning increased more than 30 per cent.

Seniors 65 and older account for nearly a quarter of overdose hospitalizations while youth age 15 to 24 reported the fastest rate of growth for opioid-related hospitalizations.

The report shows the majority of opioid overdoses among seniors were considered accidental, while over half of the poisonings among young people were considered intentional or self-inflicted.

**Source: Report — Hospitalizations and Emergency Department Visits Due to Opioid Poisoning in Canada by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA)*

On Monday, Health Minister Jane Philpott and Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale announced a series of changes to Canada's drug strategy that, among other things, will make it easier for cities like Ottawa to open safe injection sites.

The new Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy replaces the existing National Anti-Drug Strategy with what the Canadian government is calling "a more balanced approach" that focuses on harm reduction, as well as prevention, treatment and enforcement.

Legislation has also been introduced to crack down on illegal shipments of fentanyl into Canada.

Youth most at risk

Health officials concerned about the rise in fentanyl overdoses and deaths in Canada say, while it's a concern for the whole population, young people are especially vulnerable.

"In the last six years, between 2009 and 2015, there has been an increase of 77 percent in ER visits for unintentional drug overdoses and, young adults, ages 20 to 24, they have the highest rates of presentation to ER related to drugs," says Jacqueline Roy, registered nurse and program manager of Ottawa Public Health's Prevention of Injury and Substance Misuse team.

Frighteningly, many young people hoping to get high don't even have to look far. Roy says most can easily access these types of dangerous narcotics in their own homes.

"Prescription opioids wind up in the wrong hands all the time," she explains.

"The first place youth will go to access opioids is the medicine cabinet so it's extremely important for parents to ensure prescription medication is always safe and secure."

For many other young users who buy illicit narcotics on the street, Roy says, they may not even be aware of the fact they are taking fentanyl, as it is often present – and undetectable as it doesn't have a taste or smell – in other drugs, dramatically increasing the risk of unintentional overdose or death.

— JEN TRAPLIN

TALKING TO TEENS ABOUT DRUGS

Talking to teens about drug use is never easy. Jacqueline Roy has a few tips for parents who suspect their kids are using illicit drugs:

Recognize the signs
"If you're thinking your child is consuming then you really need to check in. You'll see mood changes -- they're more irritable, depressed or agitated -- you'll see personality changes and change in interest, new friends, change in energy, money is missing, unfamiliar stuff in the house. Those are all signs that the youth may be struggling with addiction issues."

Pick a good time to raise the issue — when everybody is calm and there are no distractions
"It's not a great time to raise the issue if you're angry or if your child or your youth is under the influence at that time."

Provide a safe place for the conversation
"Letting your teen know that you care, that you're raising the issue because you care, talking about it from a concern perspective versus a blame perspective will probably ease that conversation."

For more parent-specific information and resources on youth and fentanyl use, visit parentinginottawa.com and stopoverdoseottawa.ca.

Ottawa agencies launch overdose awareness campaign

Fentanyl is often found mixed with other drugs,which means many users don't even know they have consumed it. ISTOCK

With the fentanyl and opioid crisis quickly spreading across the country, efforts are underway locally to battle the issue through education and awareness.

One recent initiative is a collaboration between a number of local agencies — including Ottawa Public Health, The Royal Ottawa, Ottawa Police Services, Ottawa Paramedics, The Ottawa-Carleton Pharmacists Associations and some local pharmacies, which resulted in the launch of an awareness campaign and online information portal — stopoverdoseottawa.ca — just a few weeks ago.

"Through that campaign, we want to urge people to learn as much as possible about illicit fentanyl so that we can prevent overdoses from happening," says Andrew Hendricks, clinical programs manager for Ottawa Public Health (OPH).

"It's about knowing who is more at risk, how to get naloxone and raising awareness around the risk of overdose for people who use drugs."

One of those major risks is the fact that many drug users many not even be aware that they have ingested fentanyl, a frightening fact Ottawa Police confirmed in October when the service warned recreational users of the dangers of fentanyl-laced street drugs after confirming for the first time that cocaine seized this summer tested positive for the opioid.

"A lot of times, it can be mixed with other drugs, whether it's ecstasy or cocaine, so you might not think you're at risk but, anytime you're taking illicit drugs, it could be mixed with fentanyl," explains Hendricks.

"People really need to learn as much as possible about those risks."

— JEN TRAPLIN

OVERDOSE PREVENTION KIT

What is naloxone?
In the event of an opioid overdose, the use of naloxone can potentially save a person's life.

When someone is overdosing on an opioid, like fentanyl, their breathing slows down or stops completely, but naloxone can temporarily block the effect of the drugs on the brain, reversing breathing problems.

Take-home naloxone kits are available for free through pharmacies and other agencies across Ottawa. When you pick up your kit, you will also receive training on overdose prevention, information on recognizing an overdose and how to respond.

Take-home naloxone kits are available at:

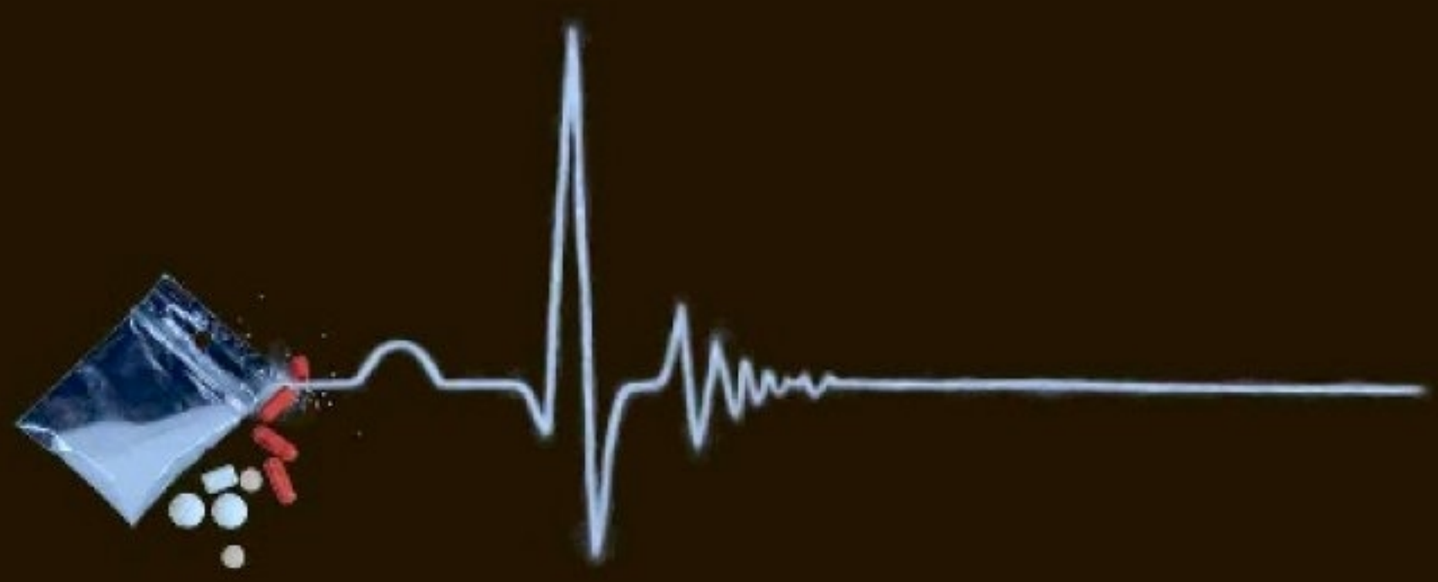
- Ottawa Public Health's Needle and Syringe Program Site Office | 179 Clarence Street
- The Ottawa Hospital | 501 Smyth Road
- Sandy Hill Community Health Centre's Oasis Overdose Prevention Service | 221 Nelson Street
- For a list of participating pharmacies in Ottawa, call the Ontario Drug and Alcohol Helpline at 1-800-565-8603.

**Source: Stop Overdose Ottawa (stopoverdoseottawa.ca)*

THIS SPECIAL REPORT WAS CREATED BY CONTENT SOLUTIONS, INDEPENDENT OF METRO EDITORIAL.

Ottawa Public Health
Santé publique

Anything can be cut with Fentanyl.



Even the smallest amount can cause an **OVERDOSE.**

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Learn more

www.stopoverdoseottawa.ca

An overdose is a medical emergency. Call 9-1-1.

Ottawa Paramedic Service / Service paramédic d'Ottawa
RespectRX
The Ottawa Hospital | L'Hôpital d'Ottawa
The Royal

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Navy, copper, climbing plants declared top trends on Pinterest 100 list

MEET THE CONDO

THE NEXT

The Next centre

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Consider living at the centre of a neighbourhood that maintains an ideal balance of retail, residential and green space. Although construction has not yet commenced for The Next — a brand new condo by Ashcroft Homes — the project is something future buyers can look forward to in the coming year.

Housing amenities

The Next has multiple amenities such as a rooftop patio and lounge, fitness centre and underground parking. The units have open-concept kitchens, smart storage spaces, nine-foot ceilings, quartz countertops, hardwood flooring and floor-to-ceiling windows enabling panoramic views of the city.

Location and transit

Located at the heart of Central Park, The Next is close to everything from local shops, retail, restaurants and cafés to Carleton University, Algonquin College and the Civic Hospital Campus. Highway 417 and major transit routes are also nearby, making commuting easy.

In the neighbourhood

The neighbourhood is close to the Experimental Farm, Canadian Agricultural Museum, the Arboretum and Dow's Lake — as well as a network of walking and bicycle paths. The area offers plenty to do in the way of entertainment and night life as well.

ILANA REIMER/FOR METRO

NEED TO KNOW

What: The Next
Builder: Ashcroft Homes
Designer: BBB Architects
Location: 300 Central Park Dr.
Building: Condominium
Size: 594 sq. ft. to 1,545 sq. ft.
Pricing: Starting at $230,000
Model: One to two bedrooms, one to two bathrooms
Status: Now selling
Occupancy: 2019
Sales centre: 300 Central Park Dr.
Phone: 613-295-8617
Website: ashcrofthomes.ca

metro SPORTS

Bubba Watson might be adding a pink golf ball to go with his pink driver — and a green ball for the Masters

Dubois 'mentally ready' to lead Team Canada

WORLD JUNIORS

No. 3 overall draft pick looks to spark his game

Highly rated prospect Pierre-Luc Dubois hasn't dominated the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League since his return from the Columbus Blue Jackets camp, but he has a chance to make up for it at the world junior championship.

The big centre, who will reportedly be traded by the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles to the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada on Sunday, has a decent, but hardly overwhelming, six goals and 18 points in 20 QMJHL games this season, well off-pace from the 42 goals and 99 points he put up in 62 games last season.

That performance prompted the Blue Jackets to skip over higher-ranked Jesse Puljujarvi and take Dubois third overall in the NHL draft in June.

"It's never easy to come back to junior from the NHL," Canadian junior coach Dominique Ducharme said of Dubois. "There's always a period to adapt and to bring your mind back to it.

"He wanted to be playing in the NHL and that's quite normal, right? So there are a lot of mental things to go through when you face that. I saw that with (Jonathan) Drouin when he came back to Halifax (from the Tampa Bay Lightning). It took him a month, or a month and half to get going, but once he did he was pretty dominant. I can see the same thing probably happening with Pierre-Luc when he came back."

> **Nobody likes to get cut, but it's a process. I don't think coming back (to junior hockey) at 18 is a bad thing.**
> Pierre-Luc Dubois

There are no star attractions, like Connor McDavid in 2015 or Mitch Marner last year, on the Canadian team that will play in the world junior event Dec. 26 to Jan. 5 in Toronto and Montreal. Dubois and Dylan Strome, drafted third overall in 2015 by the Arizona Coyotes, are closest to star status.

Strome is among five returning players from the Canadian team that lost in the quarter-finals of last year's world juniors in Finland. Dubois didn't make that team.

"Last year, on the ice, I was ready, but I was nervous," said Dubois, 18. "It was my first camp with older guys.

"This year I went to the summer (development) camp. I met everybody. I think this year I'm mentally ready. I know what to expect. When I go on the ice, I try to have fun. Last year, I just tried not to make mistakes."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pierre-Luc Dubois of the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles controls the puck against Zack MacEwen of the Gatineau Olympiques on Oct. 21 in Gatineau, Que., during QMJHL action.
FRANCOIS LAPLANTE/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

CFL

Redblacks re-sign Pruneau

The Ottawa Redblacks signed Canadian defensive back Antoine Pruneau to a two-year contract extension Wednesday.

The deal keeps the Montreal native with the CFL club through the 2018 season.

Pruneau, Ottawa's first-round pick in 2014, helped the Redblacks capture the Grey Cup last season, registering 58 tackles, 11 special-teams tackles, an interception and sack.

The six-foot 200-pounder had 68 tackles for the club as a rookie out of the University of Montreal.

Ottawa secured its first Grey Cup crown since 1976 with a 39-33 overtime victory over favoured Calgary on Nov. 27 in Toronto. The Stampeders posted a CFL-best 15-2-1 record during the regular season while the Redblacks finished atop the East Division with an 8-9-1 mark.

"What we've accomplished in three years is amazing and I'm very happy to remain a part of this," said Pruneau. "We have a lot of great things in front of us with the Grey Cup coming to Ottawa in 2017, we have a great group of players and excellent coaches.

"It's an exciting time for Ottawa football."

Pruneau, 27, becomes the third Redblacks player to receive an extension this off-season after offensive lineman SirVincent Rogers and defensive lineman Connor Williams.

"We're pleased to have Antoine return to the Redblacks for two additional seasons," said GM Marcel Desjardins. "He has proven to be one of the top defensive and special-team players in the league since his early days in the CFL.

"His development as a player has paralleled the maturity of our organization and that is not a coincidence." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Antoine Pruneau
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

UFC

Dos Santos, Struve to face off in Halifax

Former heavyweight champion Junior Dos Santos will face Stefan (Skyscraper) Struve in the main event of a Halifax UFC card on Feb. 19.

The two big men first met at UFC 95 in February 2009 when Dos Santos won by first-round knockout.

Dos Santos (18-4) is ranked fourth among heavyweight contenders while the seven-foot Struve (32-8) is No. 11.

The six-foot-four former champion is coming off a decision win in April over Ben Rothwell, but has lost three of his last six. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Junior Dos Santos GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Reed hired as Als' new GM

He's been a player, an assistant coach and a head coach in the CFL. Now Kavis Reed will get to try his hand at being a general manager.

The Montreal Alouettes announced Wednesday that Reed has been hired as their new GM. He replaces Jim Popp, who was fired Nov. 7.

The Alouettes also removed the interim tag from head coach Jacques Chapdelaine's job title.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Peterson returns to Vikings practice

Adrian Peterson was back on the practice field on Wednesday for the first time in nearly three months, and the Minnesota Vikings hope their star running back can give them the jolt they need to chase down a playoff berth.

Peterson's rehab of a torn meniscus in his right knee is nearly complete, allowing him to rejoin his teammates at practice as he ramps up for a highly anticipated return. Wearing a black brace on his right knee, Peterson took handoffs from Sam Bradford, ran routes and went through some agility drills. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCHEDULE

Peterson wasn't available for comment Wednesday, but told a local website earlier in the week that he is targeting Dec. 24 as his return date to game action.

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Spicy Carrot Soup

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Amp up or chill out the spices in this carrot soup depending on how you or your family like it.

Ingredients
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 onion chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic minced
- 1/2 inch of fresh ginger minced
- 1 teaspoon chili
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3 or 4 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 3 cups low sodium vegetable or chicken stock
- juice of half a lemon
- plain yogurt to garnish

Directions

1. Warm a glug or two of olive oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium heat.

2. Saute onions, garlic and ginger for about two minutes. Stir in spices and cook for another minute or so. Add carrots and stir well until they are coated lightly in oil and spice.

3. Add stock and increase the heat until it boils.

4. Reduce and allow to simmer for about 20 minutes or until carrots are quite tender.

5. Puree in small batches until the soup is quite smooth. You may need to add a little water or stock to thin it if it's too thick.

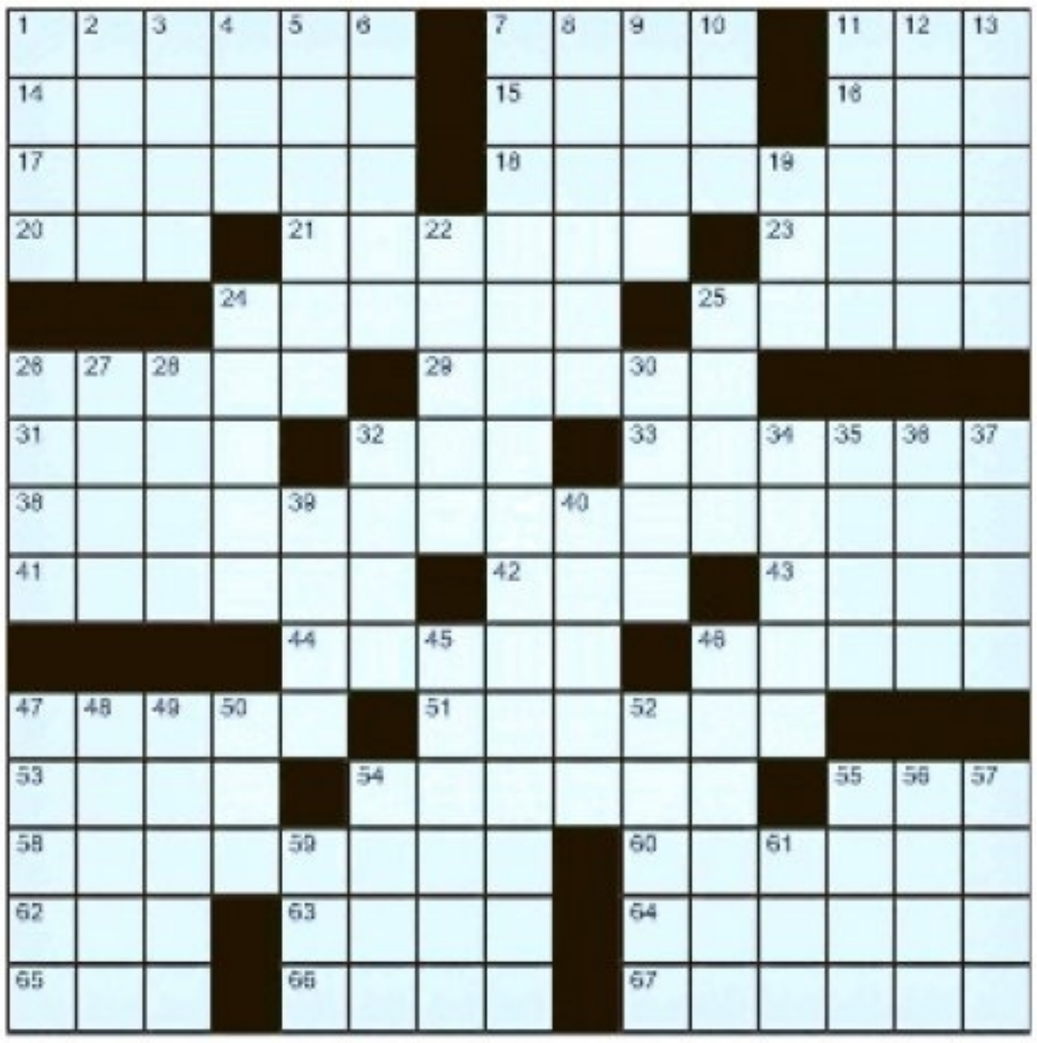
6. Stir in lemon juice.

7. Taste and check seasoning. Serve garnished with yogurt.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Help get the hockey goal
7. Shindig
11. Pop-ups, e.g.
14. Less tight
15. Taxi alternative service
16. Orchestra __
17. Reunion attendees
18. Municipality in Manitoba, Norfolk __
20. Pine-__ (Cleaning brand)
21. Cleric with a wooden bench
23. Lotus position-doing class
24. The Enlightened One
25. Snake's toxin
26. Crouch
29. __ funds
31. Serve the wine
32. Favouring
33. Maple, in Quebec
38. Festive faux firs: 2 wds.
41. Doesn't catch, as a bus perhaps
42. Meshwork
43. Gather the crops
44. Male deers
46. Hoarse
47. The Matthew explorer John
51. 1981: "Being with You" by __ Robinson
53. Declare with certainty
54. Paper clip alternative
55. Sort of deposit
58. 'Crossroads to the Future' village in Alberta northeast of Calgary where Squirt the Skunk is the mascot
60. Practical
62. Work unit
63. Citizen of Ankara or Instanbul
64. Carpentry joint parts
65. Particular loaf
66. Pepsi holders
67. Showbiz legend Ms. Gabor: 2 wds.

DOWN
1. Sigher's word
2. Unaccompanied
3. Inner light
4. Philosophy
5. Lampoon
6. Gave it a go
7. On animal bone artifacts in archaeology, they indicate that tools were used, such as in the preparation of meat: 2 wds.
8. In a country far away
9. Pictured
10. Letters with Prince Charles' name
11. Cook's covering
12. Wild dog of Australia
13. "__ Heat" by Patti Page
19. Bionic part on Colonel Steve Austin
22. Specific-purpose committee 2 wds.
24. Mr. Karloff of scary movies
25. Green, in Quebec City
26. Internet junk
27. Ms. Spelling
28. Baseball stats
30. Money, informally
32. Boxer's hand formation
34. Range
35. Hive denizens
36. Jump
37. Catch a glimpse
39. Celebration
40. Ancient Greek creator of fables
45. Sailor's 'backward'
46. Peanut Butter Cups name
47. Tossed pole in Highland games
48. Office labels brand
49. Ecru
50. Alternatives
52. Butterfingers
54. Arctic seabird
55. "The Wizard __ __" (1939)
56. Bits of vocal acrobatics
57. Queen in Disney's "Frozen" (2013)
59. Long list ender
61. Disney animated movie deer

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Something unexpected will interrupt your home routine today. Small appliances might break down, or minor breakages could occur. It could be anything! Be a Boy Scout, and be prepared.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Pay attention to everything you say and do to avoid accidents today, because this kind of energy is in the air. But if you are mindful, you will be just fine.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Something having to do with your finances, your possessions or your cash flow will be interrupted. You might lose money or you might find something!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today the Moon is in your sign, at odds with Uranus. This makes you independent and rather obsessed with things. Furthermore, everybody is restless and irritable.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Something occurring behind the scenes will have a domino effect and possibly interrupt your life or your plans today. Give yourself extra time so you have the space to deal with this.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You can expect to be surprised by a female acquaintance today. Possibly, you will meet someone who is really different or "out there."

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Relations with female authority figures are challenging today. This includes mom, bosses, judges, nurses and the police. Don't test your luck. Be courteous.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Your travel plans will be interrupted today. You can almost count on this. Double-check all important details, and allow yourself extra traveling time.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Stay in touch with your bank account and anything having to do with inheritances and shared property, because something might adversely affect these areas today. Make sure you know what's happening.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
A close friend or partner might throw you a curveball today. He or she might want more freedom or demand a change. Or she might take you out for dinner.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Expect interruptions at your workplace today. It could be anything: Computer glitches, equipment breakdowns and canceled appointments, as well as staff shortages.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Be extra vigilant today, because this is an accident-prone day for your kids. Keep your eyes peeled. Meanwhile, social plans might change.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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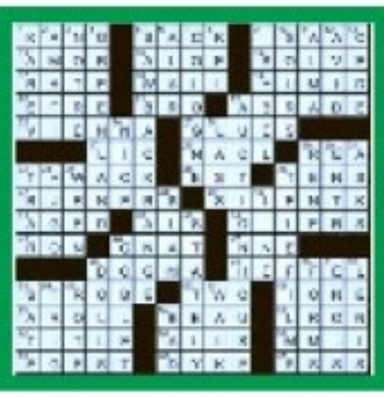

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CASH PURCHASE**

Safety 10 Airbags | 4G LTE Wi-Fi | Fuel Efficiency 6.9 L/100km hwy

SILVERADO 1500 CREW CAB HIGH COUNTRY MODEL SHOWN

2017 SILVERADO 1500 DOUBLE CAB WT 4WD

LEASE $189 BI-WEEKLY, THAT'S LIKE:

$95 WEEKLY LEASE @ **0.9%** LEASE RATE FOR **24** MONTHS**

(2.5%) APR **$1,480** DOWN PAYMENT (INCLUDES: $500 LEASE CASH, $2,500 DELIVERY CREDIT, $500 CONNECT & WIN BONUS*)

Safety 6 Airbags | 4G LTE Wi-Fi | Fuel Efficiency 10.7 L/100km hwy

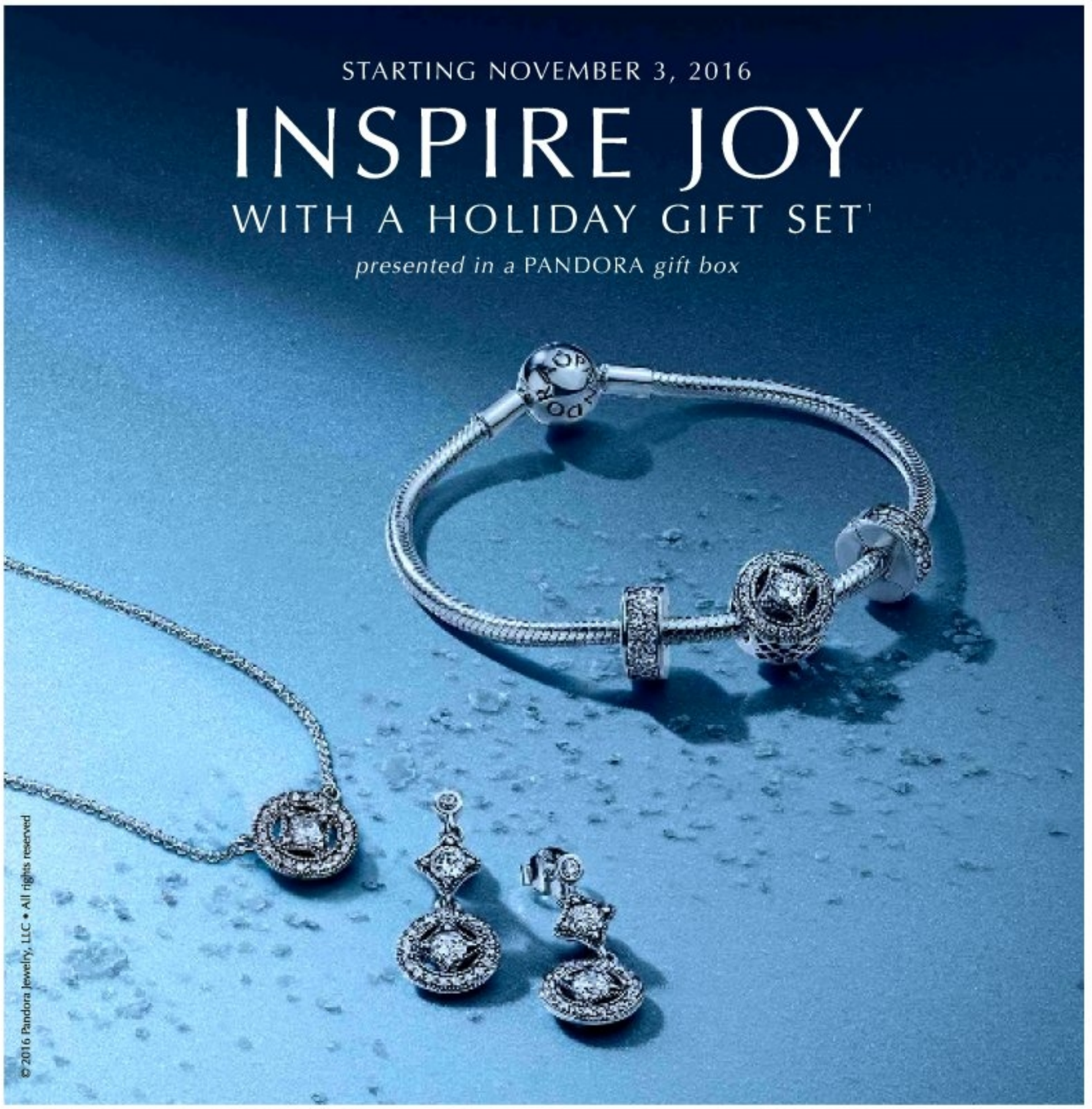
CHEVROLET HAS RECEIVED MORE 2016 J.D. POWER INITIAL QUALITY AWARDS AND VEHICLE DEPENDABILITY AWARDS THAN ANY OTHER BRAND.[3]

ALL ELIGIBLE VEHICLES COME WITH: **CHEVROLET COMPLETE CARE**

- **2** YEARS/48,000 KM COMPLIMENTARY OIL CHANGES****
- **5** YEARS/160,000 KM POWERTRAIN WARRANTY*
- **5** YEARS/160,000 KM ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE*

*No purchase necessary. Open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's license who have reached the age of majority in their province of residence. Contest runs December 2, 2016 to January 3, 2017. Credit Awards up to $17,000 include applicable taxes and must be applied to the purchase or lease of a new 2016 or 2017 MY Chevrolet vehicle delivered on or before January 3, 2017. Seventeen (17) Vehicle Awards available to be won, each consisting of winner's choice of a vehicle with an MSRP of $35,000 CAD or less (inclusive of freight). The customer is responsible for any other taxes, license, insurance, registration, or other fees. Vehicle Awards are not transferable and no cash substitutes are permitted. Credit Awards are not redeemable for cash. Not all awards have the same odds of winning. Only one game play is allowed per individual/business. $17,000 Credit Awards are regionally distributed across 3 regions as follows: (i) Western Region (BC, AB, SK, MB, NV, NWT and YK); (ii) Ontario Region (ON); and (iii) Eastern Region (QC, NS, NFLD, PEI and NB). Western Region: and four (4) $17,000 Credit Awards; Ontario Region: three (3) $17,000 Credit Awards; Eastern Region: three (3) $17,000 Credit Awards. Correct answer to mathematical skill-testing question required. Excluded 2016 vehicles: Spark LS, Malibu L, Camaro, Corvette, Equinox, Traverse, Volt, Colorado 2SA, City Express; excluded 2017 vehicles: Spark LS, Malibu L, Camaro ZL1, Colorado 2SA. For full rules and program details, visit us at Chevroletconnectandwin.ca. Correct answer to mathematical skill-testing question required. **Offer valid at participating dealers to eligible retail lessees in Canada who enter into a lease agreement with GM Financial and who accept delivery between December 1, 2016 to January 3, 2017. Lease based on a purchase price of $22,875 for a 2017 Cruze LT Auto and includes $500 Connect and Win manufacturer-to-consumer Credit Award (tax inclusive). Bi-weekly payment is $118 for 48 months at 0.5% lease rate on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. The $59 weekly payments is calculated by dividing the bi-weekly payments of $118. Annual kilometer limit of 20,000 km, $0.16 per excess kilometer. $0 down payment required. Payment may vary depending on down payment trade. Total obligation is $12,113 plus applicable taxes. Option to purchase at lease end is $9,428. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, PPSA, registration, taxes, dealer fees and optional equipment. Other lease options are available. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. See your dealer for conditions and details. General Motors of Canada Company reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Purchase price includes a cash credit of $5,000 Manufacturer to dealer, (Tax exclusive) and includes $500 Connect and Win Bonus (Manufacturer to consumer – tax inclusive) and applies to cash purchases of new 2017 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD models at participating dealers in Canada. Purchase price of $22,995 includes freight, air tax but excludes license, insurance, registration, dealer fees and taxes. By selecting lease or finance offers, consumers are foregoing this $5,000 credit which will result in higher effective interest rates. Dealer may sell for less. Offer may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. General Motors of Canada Company may modify, extend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without notice. See dealer for details. Purchase price includes a cash credit of $4,000 Manufacturer to dealer, (Tax exclusive) and includes $500 Connect and Win Bonus (Manufacturer to consumer – tax inclusive) and applies to cash purchases of new 2016 Chevrolet Trax LS FWD Air & Auto models at participating dealers in Canada. Purchase price of $18,995 includes freight, air tax but excludes license, insurance, registration, dealer fees and taxes. By selecting lease or finance offers, consumers are foregoing this $4,000 credit which will result in higher effective interest rates. Dealer may sell for less. Offer may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. General Motors of Canada Company may modify, extend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without notice. See dealer for details.Offer valid at participating dealers to eligible retail lessees in Canada who enter into a lease agreement with GM Financial and who accept delivery between December 1, 2016 to January 3, 2017. Lease based on a purchase price of $41,750 for a 2017 Silverado 1500 Double Cab WT 4WD with 5.3L V8 and G80 and includes $500 Connect and Win manufacturer-to-consumer Credit Award (tax inclusive), $2,500 available manufacturer-to-dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive). Bi-weekly payment is $189 for 24 months at 0.9% lease rate, on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. The $95 weekly payments is calculated by dividing the bi-weekly payments of $189. Annual kilometer limit of 20,000 km, $0.16 per excess kilometer. $1,480 down payment required. Payment may vary depending on down payment trade. Total obligation is $11,322 plus applicable taxes. Option to purchase at lease end is $27,582. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, PPSA, registration, taxes, dealer fees and optional equipment. Other lease options are available. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. See your dealer for conditions and details. General Motors of Canada Company reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. (The Chevrolet Spark, Chevrolet Equinox (tie), Chevrolet Silverado HD and LD, and Chevrolet Tahoe received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles in their respective segments in the J.D. Power 2016 U.S. Initial Quality Study, based on 80,157 total responses, evaluating 245 models, and measures the opinions of new 2016 U.S. vehicle owners after 90 days of ownership, surveyed in February-May 2016. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. The Chevrolet Malibu, Chevrolet Equinox, Chevrolet Silverado HD, and Chevrolet Camaro received the highest numerical scores in their respective segments in the J.D. Power 2016 U.S. Vehicle Dependability Study, based on responses from 33,560 U.S. original owners of 2013 model-year vehicles after three years of ownership about problems experienced in the past 12 months, surveyed in October-December 2015. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com ***The 2-Year Scheduled Lube-Oil-Filter Maintenance Program provides eligible customers in Canada, who have purchased, leased or financed a new eligible 2016 MY Chevrolet, Buick, or GMC vehicle (excluding Spark EV), with an AC Delco oil and filter change, in accordance with the oil life monitoring system and the Owner's Manual, for 2 years or 48,000KMs, whichever occurs first, with a limit of four (4) Lube-Oil-Filter services in total, performed at participating GM Dealers. Fluid top offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc. are not covered. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives available on GM vehicles. GM Canada reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Additional conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. *Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details.

PANDORA


STARTING NOVEMBER 3, 2016
INSPIRE JOY
WITH A HOLIDAY GIFT SET[1]
presented in a PANDORA gift box
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THE PANDORA STORE AT

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***Vintage Allure* Jewellery Gift Set[2] for $175** (Retail Value $200) | ***Elegance* Bracelet Gift Set[3] for $225** (Retail Value $280)

[1] While supplies last. Valid only at participating retailers. Void where prohibited. No substitutions. [2] Jewellery featured in gift set is unavailable for individual purchase until 01/01/17. [3] Charm featured in gift set is unavailable for individual purchase until 01/01/17.